

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR/Hungary

REPORT

SUBJECT

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COUNTRY: USSR/Hungary

SUBJECT:

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I. Military

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- a. [redacted] the 67th
Separate Tank Training Battalion.
- b. The battalion was subordinate to the 2nd Guards Mechanized
Division.
- c. The actual battalion strength consisted of about 70 officers,
about 80 enlisted men in the permanent battalion cadre, and
400 to 600 trainees. Prior to the Hungarian revolt in late October 1956

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there were about 700 trainees. At the start of the revolt, 500 of these were assigned to various divisional regiments and the remaining 200 trainees were assigned to man the approximately 50 tracked vehicles. When the battalion reassembled on 15 December 1956, an unknown number of new trainees, who were received from the division, were organized into four companies.

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- d. Since 10 December 1956, the 67th Separate Tank Training Battalion was located at Szabadzsallas (N 46-53, E 19-13). It had previously been at Mor (N 47-28, E 18-13); prior to June or July 1955, it had been at Jaszbereny (N 47-30, E 19-56).
- e. The training area of the battalion was at Veszprem (N 47-06, E 17-53).
- f. For the battalion's present location, see paragraph I.d. above.

g.

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- h. The battalion commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Kalinin (fnu), Armored Branch. He replaced Lieutenant Colonel Milchevskiy (fnu), in late 1956.

- i. The major items of equipment held by the battalion were:

- (1) About 30 T-54 tanks of two types, one of which had a lower rounded turret. Some of both types of these tanks were equipped with stabilizers.
- (2) About 12 to 15 T-34/75 (sic) and T-34/85 tanks.
- (3) Three or four JS-2 and JS-3 tanks.
- (4) Four 122-millimeter self-propelled guns.
- (5) Five or six amphibious tanks. These tanks, which had four-man crews, were armed with a 75-millimeter gun, and were estimated to be 15 to 20 tons in weight. These tanks, which had a maximum surface speed of 50 to 60 kilometers per hour, were powered in the water by a turbine which had no screw. The water entered through side intakes and was expelled from the rear through exhaust ports in some unknown manner.

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- (6) Fifteen trucks, consisting of 11 cargo trucks and four mobile repair shops, all of which were mounted on conventional GAZ and ZIS chassis.

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- (7) Recovery vehicle. The battalion had only one turret-less T-34 which had been turned in as unserviceable.
- (8) Radios. The T-34 and JS tanks were equipped with RS-9 radios, and the T-54 tanks were equipped with 10-RT radios.
- (9) The battalion had two or three night vision devices (pribor nochnogo videniya) which were used only for training and were not mounted on tanks.
- (10) Small arms included AK (avtomat kolashnikova) submachine guns, half of which had wooden stocks while the other half had metal-folding stocks.

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the tank training course would be reduced to six months.

k. Units subordinate to the 67th Separate Tank Training Battalion were:

- (1) First Training Company, which trained tank commanders.
- (2) Second and 3rd Training Companies, which trained mechanic-drivers.
- (3) Fourth Training Company, which trained gunners.
- (4) Fifth Training Company, which trained loaders and radio operators.
- (5) Headquarters Platoon.
- (6) Artillery Repair Shop.
- (7) Tank Repair Shop.

2. Other units

(a) Fourth Guards Mechanized Regiment.

The regiment was subordinate to the 2nd Guards Mechanized Division.

subordinate to it were:

- (1) First and 2nd Motor Infantry Battalions.

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- (2) An unidentified tank battalion
- (3) Headquarters Platoon
- (4) Motor Vehicle Transport Company

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(5) Tank Support Company (Tankovaya rota obespecheniya)

(6) Artillery Repair Shop

(7) Six separate platoons, which were the Chemical, Signal, Engineer, Reconnaissance, Mortar and Music Platoons.

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The 4th Guards Mechanized Regiment was located at Szekesfehervar (N 47-12, E 18-26)

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The training area of the regiment was at Veszprem. The regiment was presently located at Szekesfehervar

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The commanding officer of the regiment was Colonel Petenko (fnu) Infantry. The major items of equipment held were:

(1) An unknown number of tanks. T-54 tanks

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T-34 tanks and unidentified self-propelled guns in the tank battalion.

(2) Two and three-axle unidentified armored personnel carriers, equipped with radios.

(3) Unidentified stationary radio transmitter which communicated with 2nd Division Headquarters.

(4) in the regimental area in 1956, before the Hungarian revolt, a self-driven gun with an estimated caliber of 75 millimeters.

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The 4th Guards Mechanized Regiment participated in September 1956 in maneuvers which lasted one week at Veszprem together with the 2nd Division and the Separate Corps Headquarters to which the 2nd Division was subordinate.

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b. Second Guards Mechanized Division.

the 2nd Guards Mechanized Division was subordinate to an unidentified separate corps headquarters which, since the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Austria, had been located in Budapest.

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the division was previously subordinate to the Central Group of Forces, located in Baden, Austria.

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subordinate to it were:

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(1) Fourth Guards Mechanized Regiment and two unidentified artillery regiments, one of which was a howitzer and the other an artillery regiment. All of these regiments were located in different compounds in or near Szekesfehervar.

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- (2) Eighty-seventh Mechanized Regiment, whose location was unknown.
- (3) Thirty-eighth Mechanized Regiment, whose location was unknown.
- (4) Sixty-seventh Separate Tank Training Battalion, located at Szabadzsallas.
- (5) An unidentified engineer battalion, whose location was unknown.
- (6) An unidentified separate signal company, whose location was unknown.
- (7) An unidentified separate reconnaissance company, whose location was unknown.
- (8) An unidentified rocket launcher unit.

The headquarters of the division was located at Kecskemet (N 46-54, E 19-41) prior to the Hungarian revolt.

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the division headquarters had moved to Budapest. The training area of the division was at Veszprem. The division was presently located in Budapest.

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Lieutenant General Filipov (fnu), who was later replaced, was commanding officer prior to late summer 1956.

major items of equipment there had been an unidentified unit in Mor which was equipped with about 25 M-13 132-millimeter rocket launchers. This unit was directly subordinate to the 2nd Division and moved to Jaszbereny in June or July 1955. The 2nd Division participated in maneuvers with corps headquarters at Veszprem in September 1956. There were representatives of the Hungarian Army present as observers.

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c. Train Escort Company

The company was subordinate directly to the Central Group of Forces located in Baden, Austria. strength of the company to be ten officers and 150 to 160 enlisted men. The company's casern location was near Bruck (N 47-30, E 15-15).

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The present location of the company was near Bruck. Major Gorin (fnu), Infantry, was the company commanding officer.

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enlisted men of this unit were engaged in escorting and guarding sealed train shipments from the USSR into Austria and Hungary.

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the trains did not carry personnel.

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d. Basic Training Center. [redacted]

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The center was located in Barnaul in a compound together with other units. After one and one-half months of training, all trainees [redacted] were sworn in, together with 1,000 other trainees from another unidentified training center in Biysk (N 52-35, E 85-14) Altayskiy Kray, RSFSR. [redacted]

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[redacted] the actual strength of the center to be about 1,000 trainees. The center included one infantry, one artillery, one tank, and one unidentified training company. [redacted] the infantry training company [redacted] commanding officer was Captain Serebrov (fnu), [redacted]

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e. [redacted] 17th Mechanized Division Headquarters in Hajmasker (N 47-18, E 18-02), Hungary.

3.

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[redacted] an unidentified unit of flame-throwing tanks arrived in Hungary during the Hungarian revolt. An unidentified flame-throwing device was mounted on T-54 tanks in the place of the co-axial machine guns. [redacted]

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[redacted] two unidentified Soviet Armies, one from the Ukrainian SSR and the other from the Belorussian SSR, arrived in Hungary during the Hungarian revolt in November 1956.

4.

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5.

[redacted] the age class of the 67th Separate Tank Training Battalion consisted of those who were born in 1933, made up of five to ten enlisted men; 1934, made up of about 70 enlisted men; 1935, made up of about 50 enlisted men; and those who were born in 1936, made up of about 600 trainees. Those born in 1933 and 1934 were to be demobilized in October 1956. About 20 of these two groups had been discharged on 21 October 1956. The other 60 [redacted] were awaiting discharge when the Hungarian revolt broke out. [redacted]

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[redacted] no demobilization took place, and there was no indication as to when demobilization would be renewed.

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6. For information on vehicular movement, see paragraph 12.

7. [redacted] no significant increase in the number of military aircraft. 25X1

8. Increases in critical equipment [redacted] consisted of: 25X1

a.

[redacted] each battalion tracked vehicle was issued a basic load which was replenished from supplies trucked in from unidentified divisional warehouses. Battalion T-54s normally carried 15 to 20 shells,

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plus an unknown quantity of machine gun ammunition.

- b. Trainees of the 67th Separate Tank Training Battalion, who already had gas masks in their possession, took the gas masks with them. The permanent party were not issued gas masks.
- c. The 67th Separate Tank Training Battalion had six or seven 1,000-liter gas storage tanks, and one ZIS-5 tank truck.

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12. Recent Unit Activity:

a. The 67th Separate Tank Training Battalion was in garrison at Mor when the Hungarian revolt broke out. Of the battalion's 700 trainees, 500 were assigned to various regiments of the 2nd Guards Mechanized Division and the remaining 200 were formed into tank crews which manned the approximately 50 tanks belonging to the battalion. About 20 percent of the battalion remained in Mor to guard the garrison while most of the battalion

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moved into Budapest to guard the Parliament Building and the Ministry of Defense during the height of the revolt. The chief of staff of the battalion, a major, also remained in Mor. On 10 December 1956, the rear-guard party moved to Szabadszallas, where they were joined on 15 December by the remainder of the battalion.

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no fighting during the revolt

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any indication of reluctance to fight would have led to severe punishment.

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- b. there were good relations between the Hungarian people and the Soviet troops prior to the outbreak of the revolt. language was an effective barrier to even better relations. only one Soviet enlisted man killed during the fighting and one officer who lost a leg during the fighting. The unit was in constant alert status at Mor during the revolt. The men slept fully clothed and took off only their boots. The garrison guard at Mor was increased from one to ten; four T-34 tanks, which were not battle-ready but could patrol, were also added. However, there were no incidents with the Hungarian people and in December 1956, all excess small arms ammunition taken by the Soviet soldiers was turned in.

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23. Miscellaneous Military Information

- a. [redacted] Hungarian radio broadcast of a speech, subsequently translated into Russian, by Imre Nagy, in which Nagy threatened to call for [redacted] military help unless the Soviet Army left Hungary. Several hours later, [redacted] Moscow Radio report this speech. 25X1
- b. After some JS tanks had been stolen by Hungarian rebels, an order was issued by a higher headquarters element for all T-54 tanks to fire, without hesitation, on all JS tanks. [redacted] a Soviet T-54 fired on a JS tank, killing a Soviet colonel who was the commanding officer of a Soviet regiment. 25X1
- c. [redacted] the commanding General of the 2nd Guards Mechanized Division personally executed five enlisted men of his division by shooting for alleged looting. [redacted] 25X1
- d. [redacted] a report on an Hungarian radio station that 85 Soviet tanks fled across the Hungarian border into Austria; Soviet refugees were mentioned several times in the report. 25X1
- e. [redacted] dependents of the 67th Separate Tank Training Battalion leaving the garrison on 5 November 1956 with all personal belongings in five ZIS-151 trucks. [redacted] these dependents were being evacuated and would entrain at Komarom (N 47-45, E 18-06) for the USSR. 25X1

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Comment:

[redacted] this was not a self-propelled
gun (samokhodnaya ustanovka) but [redacted]

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[redacted]
[redacted] a self-driven gun (samodvizhushchaya
pushka).

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